Human Security Challenges to Pakistan
(Militancy, Water Scarcity, Food & Environment Shortage)

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Abstract

The majority of governments around the world took the steps and focused on ensuring the safety of their populations. They developed and formed their national security policies, but some countries, including Pakistan, paid little heed to them. As a result of Pakistan's failure to address human security issues, such as militancy, water, food, and the environment, a slew of new security difficulties have evolved. The general population, or lower middle class, lacked basic requirements of existence, creating a sense of insecurity in them. As a result, they were obliged to oppose the government's authority, resulting in some kind of a wave of militancy across the country. The current study reveals such inequities in society and proposes that Pakistan's human security challenges, such as militancy, water, and food, can all be effectively addressed by implementing a comprehensive plan that includes the use of force, diplomatic means of negotiation, and social elevation of ordinary people. People may think more positively and productively as a result of such reformatory approaches.

Key Words: Food Shortage, Human Security, Militancy, Water Scarcity.

Introduction

Pakistan is currently recognized as one of the world's most insecure countries. Pakistan, according to the Human Security Centre of Canada, has the worst kind of political instability, and is thus comparable to the most insecure countries such as Yemen, Haiti, and Myanmar.
When we look at Pakistan's history, we can see it in the graphs of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2016, where Pakistan is ranked 137th, slightly ahead of Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. It is a list of the world's least peaceful countries. However, it maintained in the top 150 at GPI in 2021, but was still behind India, which was ranked 141. It is ranked sixth among the seven least peaceful states in South Asia, barely ahead of Afghanistan; however, the Failed States Index ranked Pakistan as the world's 12th most failed state in 2012. (Malik, 2018)

Pakistan is regarded religiously homogeneous, yet culturally it is much diversified. When it comes to ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious traditions, the society has several facets. It has political institutions that are weak, vulnerable, and insecure. Ethnic diversity and sectarian conflict have fractured society, resulting in a wave of political fragmentation across the country. (Anwar & Rafique, 2012)

The primary goal of human safety is to provide conditions that allow people to freely exercise their human rights in accordance with their abilities. Freedom from poverty, freedom from health risks, and environmental protection are defined as three core components of human security in the report 'Human Security Now.' Human security, at its core, necessitates a set of robust authorities for everyone, to prevent people whose livelihoods are gravely harmed from living in a state of total deficiency, denied of enough to eat and or a roof over their heads, as detailed in the study 'Human Security Now.' (Khan, 2015)

The primary reasons for Pakistan's very vulnerable status of human security include widespread poverty, people's health susceptibilities, and worsening environmental conditions. Under the aegis of the UNDP, the National Human Development Report elaborates that Pakistan is a hypothetical moment in its history; it confronts a complex calamity of human circumstances. (Faraz, 2017)

If poverty is defined as a lack of material resources and a lack of basic opportunities, multiple statistics from within and outside Pakistan show that one-third of Pakistanis have low earnings and nearly half of the population has a severe lack of essential living opportunities. Pakistan's overall health profile is concerning, with the highest infant death rate and the shortest life expectancy at birth in South Asian States. (Page & Pande, 2018)

Moreover, the issue of environmental challenges, as well as the sustainability of the environment in Pakistan, has reached a horrifying level. Pakistan is ranked second lowest in Asia on the Environmental Sustainability Measure (ESM), a composite index of 21 variables representing five types of environmental pressure estimated by Yale Centre of Environmental Law and Policy and CIESIN at Columbia. (Willmot, Sheeran, & Sharland, 2015)

The state is primarily an administrative body with a set territorial proximity and formal membership, whereas society is concerned with the presentation of identity and the manner in which communities define themselves as members of any community. As a result, community insecurity emerges when individuals see development or potential as a threat to their existence as a group. (Price, Veen, & Price, 2016)

Absence of Nation Building Attitudes
Pakistan has been beset by ethnic disputes and differences since its origin, and the task of nation-building has proven to be one of the most persistent stumbling blocks, laying the foundation for political upheaval in many parts of the country. Another point to consider is that the scope and magnitude of the nation-building problem differ. Although Pakistan was split from India under the banner of the two-nation theory, the issues of national identity and statehood have yet to be resolved. There was only a sliver of national agreement on the nature and character of Pakistan's post-colonial state at the time of its independence. However, the most important objective facing subsequent governments was to raise national awareness, which would lead to integration into a single state. True democracy necessitates democratic culture and principles that emphasize harmony and equal power sharing. Regular elections within political parties are just as important as regular national elections. Internally, democracy holds leaders accountable to their own political parties and workforce. Individuals become more important than political parties when internal democracy and accountability are lacking, and public trust in the political system erodes. Unfortunately, despite the presence of a large number of political parties, these negative trends have been entrenched in Pakistan. (McDermott, Gordon, Embree, & Dalton, 2014)

**Sectarian Conflicts**

It is well known that the high intensity of excessive sectarian animosity not only poses a persistent threat to Pakistan's sovereignty, but also consumes it like termites. Sectarian and religious terrorism will wreak carnage at every turn. It is critical to run a campaign against it. "Sectarian violence is not a mono-causal event," says Frederic Grare, "and it has deep social, political, and geo-political foundations." (Siddiqui, 2015) Religious divisions are an unavoidable part of life in any culture. In Pakistan, Islam has many distinct interpretations and sorts of beliefs. (Ahmed, 2013)

**Tendency of Sectarianism**

Sectarian violence was a key component of General Zia Ul Haq's Islamization curriculum in Pakistan, which prioritised the implementation of Sunni Shariah laws over the formation of a Muslim society based on the fundamental Islamic teachings of democracy, rights, justice, transparent, and public impartiality. Pakistan has descended into turmoil and instability as a result of traditional spiritual organisations' independence. There would be no liberal regime required to take the place of the current one. (Afzal, 2018) As a result, Zia's government initiated a conservative attitude, with one of its key goals being the Islamization of the state and society. To take the step, separate electorates for Muslims and non-Muslims were proposed. (Kanwal, 2019)

**Proliferation of Light Weapons, Illicit Drug Culture and Illegal Migrants**

The unrestricted availability of handguns has resulted in a major militarization of civil society. Militarization is linked to societal perceptions of belligerence and hostility, meaning that it is being copied at the governmental and civilian levels of behaviour. Rather than a high
quantity of illegal manufactures, Pakistan's rise in small guns manufacturing is due to a strong gun culture and a legacy of varieties. (Britto, 2020)

In terms of socio cultural, political, and economic elements, the Afghanistan war had a severe impact on Pakistani society. The state is armed to the teeth with sophisticated and powerful weapons, endangering Pakistani citizens' safety and encouraging the criminalization of political matters. As a result, Pakistan is a country where the law and order situation is far from ideal for a variety of reasons, and the state's authority over citizens to curb violence and criminalization is steadily eroding. The state appears to be just marginally capable of safeguarding its citizens from extortion by political, spiritual, and illegal elements from all across the country. (Saroja, 2012)

Some Madrassas in Pakistan are promoting Jihad education in a combative style. The ultimate purpose was to train and speak about Jihad, as well as to make the 'Mujahidin' holy warriors. Some Madrassas teach their students military skills, such as how to use weapons and how to engage in guerilla warfare. In 2018, the Reports of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan conveyed similar impressions. According to the research, "about one-third of Pakistani Madrassas provide military training to their kids," and "some Madrassas provided training for their students to join in the Afghan conflict without their parents' knowledge." (Puri, 2010)

Poverty as a Gigantic Challenge to Human Security in Pakistan

The theory of the poverty line in incomes and usage gap has been used as the foundation for understanding the problem of poverty. The purpose of the poverty line is to define the lowest amount of acceptable earnings or consumption. According to this definition, poverty is defined as the failure to achieve a specified minimum level of wages and consumption, and poor people are those who fail to achieve that level. (Malik, 2016)

The Problematic Issue of Unemployment

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), "unemployed workers" are those who are now unemployed but are willing and capable of working for a living, are currently available for work, and have actively sought employment. Unemployment is commonly assessed using the unemployment ratio, which is defined as the proportion of persons in the labour force who are unemployed. (Shehzad & Yasmin, 2016)

Unemployment in Pakistan refers to all people over the age of ten who were unable to find work, were not in paid employment or self-employment during the time period in question, and were now available for both, as well as those who were unable to find work for other reasons. (Inanc, 2018)

Challenges of Food Security

Food security occurs when all individuals have adequate, safe, and revitalizing foods that meet their nutritional needs and food choices for a healthy and energetic life at all times, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), whereas meal uncertainty occurs when individuals do not have satisfactory physical, social, or financial access to foods as defined above.
Pakistan is going through one of its most difficult eras in history. Increasing political chaos, conservatism, sectarian conflict, intimidation, and brutality, never-ending inflation, corrupt governance, alarming ethnic and regional inequities, and periodic flooding are causing havoc on Pakistan's poor and underprivileged inhabitants. Food insecurity is at an all-time high, with millions of people unable to acquire adequate nourishment and food. According to accurate estimates, nearly half of the population (47%) is food insecure, with 22% experiencing extreme food insecurity. Similarly, 60 percent of ladies and children are malnourished or starved, with 30 percent experiencing famine or severe hunger. (Bizikova, Jungcurt, McDougal, & Smaller, 2017)

According to multiple reports, Pakistan is also one of the world's most food pressured and insecure countries. Pakistan is ranked 75th in the world according to the Global Food Security Index. Similarly, the Food Security Risk Index has ranked 148 countries. Pakistan is ranked 11th on the index, indicating that it is at 'severe risk,' while other South Asian countries such as Bangladesh and India are ranked 20th and 25th, respectively, indicating that they are both at 'high risk.' Fresh food costs grew by at least 35 percent, according to authorities from the World Food Organization (WFO), whereas earnings only increased by 18 percent. As a result, there is a significant disparity between the increase in expenses and the increase in salaries. Furthermore, the poor's purchasing power has decreased by about half. (Caballero-Anthony, Teng, and Montesclaros, 2020)

Even at the district and provincial levels in Pakistan, there is severe food insecurity. Pakistan is currently more insecure than it was at the turn of the twentieth century. Increasingly, several districts have slid from secure to unsafe, and from slightly insecure to completely insecure. Food insecurity is a serious problem in many households, districts, regions, and provinces. According to the research, 45 districts across the country are considered to be 'very food insecure,' when the number was around 38 from 2008 to 2018. In the most recent era, the number of 'food insecure' districts increased from 16 to 35. (Suleri, 2020)

**Challenges to Health Security**

The importance of good health in establishing human security cannot be emphasized. It is required because the protection of human life is at the heart of safety. Health security is a major component of human security, according to the Commission on Human Security 2020, disease, disability, and unnecessary decease are all considered important and unavoidable risks to human security. As a result, health is never characterized as a state of complete physical, psychological, and societal comfort and well-being; rather, it is a state of total physical, psychological, and societal comfort and well-being. (Schnabel, Glassman, & Schnabel, 2019)

Pakistan's population health and nutritional status has always been the worst. More than half of the country's population is powerless in achieving their balanced health potentials as the twenty-first century begins. Those key causes are a lack of adequate health-care facilities. It's also worth noting that Pakistan's health-care system focuses on curative rather than preventive health and medical maintenance. The wealthy have the right to use health benefits that are dictated by their status and income, whilst the poor are denied access to even the
most basic health care. Rural areas are hampered by a scarcity of health-care services.(Farooq, Nayab & Arif, 2014)

According to the Pakistan National Health Accounts 2014, impoverished people are not only harmed by a high incidence of diseases, but also by the exorbitant cost of medical treatment, which is a major factor in pushing people into scarcity and poverty. Because of their lack of nutrition, the impoverished have a weakened immune system, making them more susceptible to sickness. Furthermore, the poor have a disproportionately high rate of sickness due to a lack of access to nontoxic drinking water and unsanitary food preparation, storage, and consumption conditions. (Michaud, 2018) Diseases affect children more than they do adults. Children's illnesses are caused by communicable diseases that can be avoided. According to the Pakistan Demographic Survey 2019, over 39 percent of children under the age of five years die, while 30 percent of children under the age of one year die. As a result, these disorders are rather common in society, and government healthcare facilities are not doing a good job of preventing or curing them. Non-communicable diseases, on the other hand, are linked by common causes such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory infections, particularly in Pakistan. In Pakistan, one out of every four middle-aged persons is thought to be suffering from heart problems. In urban regions, heart attacks account for 16.6% of male fatalities. While there are no reliable figures about cancer diseases, limited studies show that there are approximately 90-100 new instances of cancer diseases per 100,000 people. (Gerberding, 2019)

In comparison to other developing countries, Pakistan spends extremely little money on community health services. The entire health expenditures in Pakistan are estimated to be 4 dollars per capita, although the World Health Organization (WHO) commission advises that spending on required health services should be $ 34 per capita. To get closer to the WHO-recommended planes, Pakistan will need to spend twice as much on health as it does now. Overall health spending in Pakistan has remained about 3.9 percent of GDP, with government cuts totaling only 0.86 percent of GDP. (Pan, 2020)

Challenges to Environmental Security

The environment is considered to be the most fundamental and widespread source of human conflict and as a result, security problems for example, water has been and continues to be a major cause of global, national, and even individual disparities. Similarly, energy is essential for environmental protection and national security at all levels. There is a definite link between environmental degradation and human security when looking at environmental and security linkages from a variety of viewpoints, whether it is in the form of urban pollution, water pollution, soil degradation, deforestation, or biodiversity loss. A significant threat to human security might be perceived as a threat to human welfare. (Khayam& Ahmad, 2020)

In Pakistan, the challenges to environmental security and therefore human security include not only concerns of scarcity of resources, environmental fragility, and deteriorating or increasing weather change affects, but also, clearly, issues of institutional and government weaknesses. Without a doubt, Pakistan's resource deficit is a well-known fact. The issue of resource scarcity can be understood in three ways. First and foremost, scarcity is caused by
demand. Human migration has grown as a result of population growth. It also means that Pakistan's use of renewable and non-renewable resources is increasing. The supply chain is the next source of shortage. This type of scarcity is most evident in the areas of land, water, and energy. The last type of scarcity is caused by structural factors. Influences closely related to individual sociological and cultural morals, as well as the way a society is systematized and the administrative system is constructed, cause it. (Rasool, & Ogunbode, 2015)

Furthermore, Pakistan faces a range of natural challenges, including increasing water shortages, habitat destruction, land salt content in the Indus basin as a result of rising water tables, rising levels of leakage, population pressure on natural resources, production waste, and possible nuclear leakage, as well as migration induced by the environment. In the coming years, Pakistan is expected to face a serious water deficit. Deforestation has been increasing at an alarming rate in Pakistan. Between 2015 and 2020, deforestation is anticipated to increase by 10 million hectares per year, after a year-on-year drop of 24.37 percent from 2000 to 2010. (Matthew, 2014)

Huge weather events would result from climatic change. Pakistan has already experienced such volatile ups and downs. Pakistan is dealing with one of the world's worst natural disasters. According to a special analysis published by the World Bank, total natural calamity-related mortality from 2015 to 2017 were estimated to be over 94,000, while the overall percentage of individuals affected remained at 17.2. It costs nearly 357 million dollars. The magnitudes of climate change will also be observed from the Indus basin. Rainfall vicissitudes and glacial melt are expected to cause increasing overflow in the Indus basin. The annual overflow in the Indus is also anticipated to reduce by 27% by 2050. The rising sea level has a significant impact on the coastal systems below sea level. The current increase in sea level in South Asia is estimated to be roughly 1.0 millimeter each year. It will undoubtedly raise concerns in Pakistan and other South Asian countries; nonetheless, it appears to be greatly overblown. (Iqbal & Irfan, 2018)

Climate change also has an impact on the general public's well-being. Even slight climate shocks in Pakistan can cause irreversible damage and deprivation for a large number of people. Food security is also inextricably linked to this issue, as climatic change would erode the foundation of food security, which is already strained in Pakistan. In the event of a bad climate change scenario, wheat productivity could reduce by 2%. Overall agricultural productivity is anticipated to decline by 32% by 2080. Climate change would have a significant impact on human health. Pakistan, as a poor country, is more vulnerable to health-related problems. In impoverished countries, the death rate from vector-borne diseases is 300 times higher than in developed countries. (Nuttall, Samaras & Bazilian, 2017)

There could be several other health-related issues, such as life-threatening extremely high air temperatures, which can kill you instantly. As a result of climatic change, it is anticipated that the risk of malaria sickness will increase by 12 to 27 percent, and the risk of dengue fever will increase by 31 to 47 percent. Heat waves along a straight line increase the number of deaths from cardiac and respiratory illnesses, especially among the elderly. Malaria, dengue...
fever, yellow fever, and several types of encephalitis could all be affected by rising temperatures and environmental issues. (Bretschger, 2014)

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

It is possible to conclude that Pakistan faces numerous human security concerns as a result of its failure to strengthen the social sector. It may result in the division of society into numerous sectors such as ethnic, religious, sectarian, and so on. In the face of all of these challenges, the country has always been unable to address the problems from within. As a result, the country's human security framework has been consistently neglected by all governments. To summarize, a number of human security concerns have evolved in Pakistani society, the most significant of which are water shortages, militancy, food scarcity, and environmental pollution.

Similarly, negative forces in society who resisted the government's authority exploited that sense of deprivation, resulting in a wave of violence across the country. Attempts by previous governments to resolve the issues by crushing them have resulted in an upsurge in militancy across the country.

To summarize the topic, it can be concluded that Pakistan's human security challenges can be effectively addressed by implementing a comprehensive plan that includes the use of force, diplomatic means of cooperation, and the social elevation of common people in society.

Nearly a third of the world's population is predicted to live in water-stressed countries that must compromise on water quality. The overall picture of food and water security shows that the globe has been affected by problems in managing this enormous challenge, and Pakistan is no exception. Water is not only a solitary source of human insecurity, but also a prominent supporting factor in the deterioration of Pakistan's human security patterns. Water scarcity is posing a serious danger to the general public's revenue in Pakistan. Pakistan is primarily a developing country that is already experiencing food and water scarcity. Pakistan's problems are diverse in nature.

Similarly, Pakistan's food security has been under persistent threat for the past few years due to the country's policymakers' failure to address the issue on a priority basis. Pakistan has been dealing with a slew of human security issues, which are only getting worse as the country's social order is neglected. Current research highlights Pakistan's human security issues, focusing on militancy, water scarcity, food, and environmental shortages. The current research work has deduced certain conclusions after a logical and exhaustive analysis. It was also discovered that the management of several departments linked to water, food, and law enforcement is failing to fulfil its institutional responsibilities in addressing the concerns of militancy, water scarcity, food, and environmental shortages in the country on time.

Furthermore, the number of co-, multi-dimensional, and nature of historical disparities in Pakistani society has political class the water issue in Pakistan, which has become a major impediment in the construction of new storage tanks in the country, and may be the primary major source of water scarcity in Pakistan, resulting in a food shortage. Natural catastrophes are a contributing factor in the country's water scarcity and food scarcity.

Human security concerns in Pakistan, such as water shortages, food scarcity, and militancy, highlight the traditional security concept's failure to provide a solution. Pakistan responds in a
desperate manner to each problem it faces, necessitating the implementation of a comprehensive security policy that includes the resolution of human security issues. The current research could be used to create a case for the adoption and effective deployment of a human security apparatus in Pakistan. Following a thorough examination of Pakistan's human security challenges, it is imperative that good recommendations be made in order to adequately address these issues and rid the country of all human security dangers. First and foremost, human security must be incorporated into the security framework of the Pakistani government in the form of a contextualization exercise in policy formulation and implementation. It has been stated that by implementing a comprehensive strategy that combines the use of force, legislative techniques of negotiation, and socioeconomic elevation of the ordinary citizen, the cumulative challenges to Pakistani society's human security ideas can be effectively addressed.

References


